

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1070

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONVENTION WILL SUBMIT MAJORITY REPORT ON TIME

REF: BELFAST 329

1. AT BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING OCT. 20 IT DECIDED DEFINITELY NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WILL SUBMIT REPORT TO HMG O/A NOVEMBER 8. UNLESS THERE TOTALLY UNEXPECTED DEFECTIONS FROM UNIONIST MAJORITY SHIFTING VOTING STRENGTH, CONVENTION REPORT, OUTLINING PLANS FOR FUTURE PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT IN PROVINCE, WILL BE THAT TABLED BY UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC). PROPOSALS OTHER GROUPS WILL BE SUBMITTED AS APPENDICES TO "CONVENTION REPORT." SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) WHICH HAD ARGUED UNSUCCESSFULLY THAT CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SHOULD WRITE FINAL REPORT ENCOMPASSING PROPOSALS ALL PARTIES WILL PROBABLY TAKE LITTLE PART IN PRELIMINARY DEBATE TO BEGIN OCT. 29. SDLP EXPECTED HOWEVER, TO JOIN WITH OTHER SMALLER GROUPS, EXCEPT CRAIG VANGUARD, IN VOICING OPPOSITION TO UUUC PROPOSALS ON FINAL DAY NOV. 7. CRAIG HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE AND THREE VANGUARD ADHERENTS IN CONVENTION WOULD SUPPORT UUUC PROPOSALS.

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2. OUTLINES OF PARTY PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

UUUC REPORT REAFFIRMS PRINCIPLE OF WESTMINSTER-STYLE MAJORITY GOVERNMENT WITH STRONG COMMITTEES COMPOSED OF EQUAL NUMBER REPRESENTATIVES MAJORITY AND MINORITY PARTIES TO INITIATE OR MAKE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS OF LEGISLATION. UUUC REPORT ALSO CALLS FOR BILL OF RIGHTS AND DUTIES, EXPRESSES BELIEF THAT "NO COUNTRY OUGHT TO BE FORCED TO HAVE IN ITS CABINET ANY PERSON WHOSE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND ATTITUDES HAVE REVEALED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE STATE" AND LIMITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNIVARMERAL 78-100 MEMBER PARLIAMENT TO BRITISH CITIZENS. (LAST POINT ALONE WOULD CAUSE SOUL-SEARCHING IN SDLP MANY OF WHOSE LEADERS AND MEMBERS CARRY IRISH REPUBLIC PASSPORTS). IRISH DIMENSION IS DISPOSED OF IN CALUSE "THAT GOOD NEIGHBOROURLY RELATIONS SHOULD BE WELCOMED BUT THAT IMPOSED INSTITUTIONALIZED ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SHOULD BE REJECTED." UUUC SPOKESMEN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE PROPOSALS WERE WITHIN 1974 CONSTITUTION ACT AND THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD ACCEPT THEM.

3. NINE FORMER VANGUARD CONVENTION MEMBERS AND EX-VANGUARD M.P. JOHN DUNLOP (REFTEL) ANNOUNCED OCT. 20 THEY WERE FORMING UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST MOVEMENT WITHIN UUUC TO WORK FOR SINGLE UNITED UNIONIST PARTY. ALTHOUGH NOT A PARTY, MOVEMENT WILL OPERATE WITH CONSTITUENCY ORGANIZATIONS.

4. WILLIAM CRAIG AND VANGUARD LOST MORE ORGANIZATION SUPPORT OCT. 20 AS ULSTER WORKERS (UWC) COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BROUGHT UWC OFF FENCE AND URGED UUUC CONVENTION MEMBERS "TO REJECT ANY COMPROMISE WITH THE SOFT-LINE REPUBLICANS IN THE SDLP."
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